

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE DISTR. 24 OCT 50

SUBJECT Issuance of Arms to Former Partisans;  
Government Explanation of Present Economic  
Crisis

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1. Since mid-September 1950, the Yugoslav Government has begun the distribution of arms to former trusted partisans in Belgrade and in cities and town in northern Yugoslavia. In distributing the arms, Government officials explain that they are to be used for personal defense in case of trouble with Cominformists in Yugoslavia or an attack by the satellite countries.
2. In factories, cooperatives and Government offices, the Agit-prop has been holding frequent meetings of employees to explain the cause of the difficult food situation in Yugoslavia. Agit-prop leaders take great pains to explain that, contrary to current Cominform propaganda, the present crisis is not due to mismanagement by Tito and the Government in general but only to the severe drought. The listeners are then urged to practice the greatest economy to prove to the Cominform that the Yugoslav people are still able to overcome great difficulties.
3. The drought has so curtailed the summer harvest of fodder that farmers already are being forced to slaughter livestock. In many towns, the untimely slaughter has dropped the price of beef on the free market lower than the government-controlled price. There is, nonetheless, little or no meat available for ration card holders.

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